

Meeting called to order in the BOS Meeting Room at the Milford Town Hall at 7:00

Present:

Full members: Audrey Fraizer, Chair; Andy Hughes, Becky Lorette, Hub Seward, Janet Urquhart, Alternate members: Chris Costantino, Rodney Dellafelice, Andy Seale. Diane Morin and Kim Rimalover, excused
Guests: Gary Flaherty, Wetlands Scientist; Michael Rounds,

Minutes: July 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted as presented on a motion by Becky, seconded by Janet.

Discussion Items

1. Hiking Heron Certificate – Chris will present at the September meeting a draft certificate which could be used to recognize public involvement in commission activities. It could be presented to hikers who have hiked all the trails in town, or participated in trail maintenance events, or contributed to other commission events. Suggestions for titles – Stumbling Sparrow, Rambling Robin, Wandering Wren. Members will send in other suggestions for either categories or names for the different trail systems
2. 4th Saturday Hike
 - a. Audrey led the July hike at Mayflower. They completed the entire trail from Shady Lane to Old Lyndeborough Rd in Amherst and back in 2 hours. There were 5 hikers in addition to Audrey. It was very hot and humid
 - b. August 25th hike is at the Tucker Brook Orienteering Course. Chris will be there to lead it.
3. Great Park Pursuit. Audrey walked along the Souhegan River Trail, which was the site of the scavenger hunt hosted by the commission as part of the activities for the Great Park Pursuit Day. She saw the various teams using the map and clue sheet. Heather Hoyt, the Rec Dept organizer of the event was very pleased with the turnout. She received a lot of positive feedback about the scavenger hunt.
4. 115 Badger Hill Wetlands Violation – Gary Flaherty and Michael Rounds attended the meeting to present a plan to restore the wetlands which were partially filled. As part of the proposed plan:
 - a. Fill in the wetland will be removed until the wetland soil is uncovered. GFlaherty presumes that the wetland soil is still intact, just covered. High bush blueberry bushes will be planted. Mounds will be reestablished.
 - b. Boulders on the house side of the wetland will be replaced in their original location
 - c. Wood chip berm will be used rather than a silt fence
 - d. The buffer will be left as stabilized with the addition of fruit trees along the driveway and house side of the wetland. The Badger Hill side and the west side of the wetland will remain as a no-mow zone so that the grass mix and native vegetation have a chance to reestablish.

Chris will write a letter to the Code Enforcement Officer recommending that this proposed plan be accepted with the conditions:

- a. No spraying of the fruit trees
 - b. No chemical applications within the 25' buffer of the wetland
 - c. The commission unanimously approved the plan with the above conditions
5. Mile Slip Management Plan – Chris walked areas in Mile Slip with Kate Lovejoy, landowner across the road from the parking area. KLovejoy has noted several motor vehicles driving on the woods roads where they are prohibited. These woods roads are accessed from Mile Slip Road, which is a Class VI road. There is a large fire pit located in a clearing on the east side of the summit. Several small trees along the woods road have been knocked over. Three large limbs were cut from two large pine trees near the fire pit. On August 3, in response to a call from KLovejoy, the police investigated the activities reported. Chris will look further into this.
 - a. Discussion of possible solutions:
 - i. There was a dusk to dawn curfew, but that may have been directed to the hours that ATV operators could ride on the property. Do we want to restrict overnight camping? Chris will verify the curfew and purpose
 - ii. If the commission places boulders or gates to restrict access to the woods roads, in all probability the drivers will either remove the barriers or drive around them, cutting new access points

- iii. Would increased hiking/biking presence inhibit illegal motorized traffic on the woods roads. The trails committee is working on a master trail system for the property.
- iv. The consensus of the commission is that an increased presence by the MPD enforcing the No Motorized Vehicles signs posted at each woods road should stop the inappropriate behavior more effectively than placing barriers.

Chris will contact New England Forestry Consultants and Bay State Forestry for a quote to write a management plan for Rotch. Both these firms have done management plans in the past for the commission.

6. Work session scheduled for August 23 to discuss the 2013 Expo
7. Tucker Brook Town Forest Timber Harvest
 - a. Audrey will contact Dave Wheeler
 - i. to determine his timing and schedule for his timber harvest
 - ii. Status of the logging road construction
 - iii. Rent the logging road for access to Tucker Brook for the commission's timber harvest
 - b. Reviewed Andy H's draft letter to the abutters about the upcoming timber harvest. The commission approved the letter. Chris will send a copy of it to Dan Reed, the forester who will be managing the timber harvest.
8. Rail Trail
 - a. The Boggis' and the other landowners who share common land on Melendy Road have offered a piece of their land as a parking area for the rail trail. Chris drafted a Parking and Trail Maintenance Access Easement for the commission to review. Changes were made. Chris will need to make a Plan as referenced in the Easement.
 - b. The parking area on Armory Road is an adequate size which could be used as a model for the Melendy Rd parking area. The Armory Parking area is considered part of the Rail Trail on the tax map
9. Trail Maintenance Crew
 - a. Becky requested that the trail maintenance master list be posted in Dropbox so that the commission can be aware of the work needed doing.
 - b. Audrey would like to discuss the potential for creating a quick response trail team (QRTT)– quick response to trail maintenance issues with the trails committee at their September meeting. Chris will send this request to the trails committee chair, Brian Hawkins.
10. Site Plan Review – 51 Elm Street
 - a. This property has had a long-standing violation of town ordinance by storing too many vehicles on site. They need to propose a plan for storing these vehicles. The commission is concerned that runoff from the steep slope where these vehicles are stored could impact the Souhegan River. Hub will draft a letter stating these concerns to the Planning Board, which will consider the owner's plan for storing these vehicles

Meeting adjourned at 9:08

